

What are the Maine *Learning Results*?

The Maine *Learning Results* are the standards that identify what ALL Maine students are expected to know and be able to do at the end of each of four grade spans: pre-K–2, grades 3–4, grades 5–8, and grades 9–12. In May of 1997 the State Legislature approved Maine’s *Learning Results* for eight Content Areas: Career Preparation, English Language Arts, Health and Physical Education, Mathematics, Modern and Classical Languages, Science and Technology, Social Studies, and Visual and Performing Arts. Student progress towards the *Learning Results* will be measured through a COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (CAS).

What is the COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (CAS)?

Maine’s COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM is a combination of State and local assessments that must:

1. produce high quality information about student performance that will inform teaching and enhance learning,
2. monitor and hold school administrative units accountable for students achieving the Content Standards of the system of *Learning Results*, and
3. certify student achievement of the Content Standards of the system of *Learning Results*.

What role does the State play in the assessment of student learning?

The State provides leadership, guidance, and support to school systems related to legislated assessment requirements.

The Maine Department of Education is responsible for the development,

administration, scoring, and reporting of the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA), the only component of the COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM common to all Maine students. It is given in grades 4, 8, and 11.

What is the role of the local school districts in the COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM?

Local school districts must adopt and fully implement a local assessment system to measure student progress towards achievement of Maine’s *Learning Results* throughout their K-12 instructional program.

Why do parents need to know about Maine’s *Learning Results* and the COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (CAS)?

Successful achievement of the *Learning Results* and a child’s demonstration of knowledge and skills require a partnership between parents and teachers. The *Learning Results* provide parents with a clear picture of what their child should know and be able to do. The COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM provides more information and feedback on student progress than has been available in the past.

Both State and Federal Legislation require that all students be assessed on their progress towards achievement of Maine’s *Learning Results*.

Who must participate in the COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (CAS)?

All Maine students whose schooling is paid for with public funds must participate in the State and local assessments that are part of the

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM. There are three avenues for student participation:

1. standard administration,
2. administration with accommodations, or
3. alternate assessment.

Why does Maine need a COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (CAS)?

The COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM will provide information to students, parents, and citizens, in addition to educators, about the progress of our students towards achievement of Maine’s *Learning Results*.

A combination of State and local assessments will allow for several kinds of assessment, ensuring that all students have a greater opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills than would be the case if their progress were only measured through paper and pencil tests. This combination will provide more and better information about a student’s level of performance. This information will then be used as a basis for decisions related to certification of student achievement and district accountability.

What about students who have learning needs that don’t allow for participation in regular assessments?

To make sure that all students can have the opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do on State and local assessments, three avenues for participation are provided: standard administration, administration with accommodations, and alternate assessment. Teams, which include parents and school staff, determine which of the options best meets the needs of the student. If standard administration is not appropriate, either approved accommodations are identified for the student, or an alternate assessment is

developed to assess student progress towards achievement of Maine's *Learning Results*.

How will the COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (CAS) affect my child?

All Maine students have been assessed in the past, but those assessments were not based on standards. In 1998, for the first time, the MEA was designed to measure the progress of students towards Maine's *Learning Results*, our state standards. This allowed students, teachers, and parents to know, prior to testing, what would be measured. The COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM, including the MEA and local assessments, expands measurement by standards, and for the first time, requires the participation of ALL students in these academic assessments. The system gives students the opportunity to demonstrate what they know and are able to do in a variety of ways, such as performances, demonstrations, etc., not just through paper and pencil tests.

Beginning in 2003-2004, Maine school superintendents will certify that their districts have completed the design of a Local Assessment System. This will allow for the public reporting of student performance information, based on these assessments, in future years. These measures will provide data regarding the progress of ALL students towards achievement of Maine's *Learning Results*.

How will the COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (CAS) affect graduation?

Beginning in 2006-2007 high school diplomas will be awarded only to students who have met the standards in the Maine *Learning Results* for English Language Arts and

Mathematics as determined by the COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM. For graduation in 2007-2008, students must meet the *Learning Results* standards in three additional Content Areas: Health and Physical Education, Science and Technology, and Social Studies. In 2009-2010 diplomas will be awarded based on achievement in all eight Content Areas.

Where can parents go for more information?

Maine Parent Federation (MPF)

PO Box 2067

Augusta, ME 04338

Phone: 1-800-870-7746 or 207-623-2144

Email: parentconnect@mpf.org

Website: www.mpf.org

LEARNS

The Center for Community Inclusion

Betsy Enright

Phone: 207-892-0455

Email: Betsy_Enright@umit.maine.edu

Maine Support Network

Phone: 207-685-3171

Website: www.mainesupportnetwork.org

Maine Department of Education

Website: www.state.me.us/education

Brud Maxcy, State Assessment Coordinator

Phone: 207-624-6774

Email: brud.maxcy@maine.gov

Pam Rolfe, Local Assessment Coordinator

Phone: 207-624-6785

Email: pam.rolfe@maine.gov

Mona Baker, Alternate Assessment Coordinator

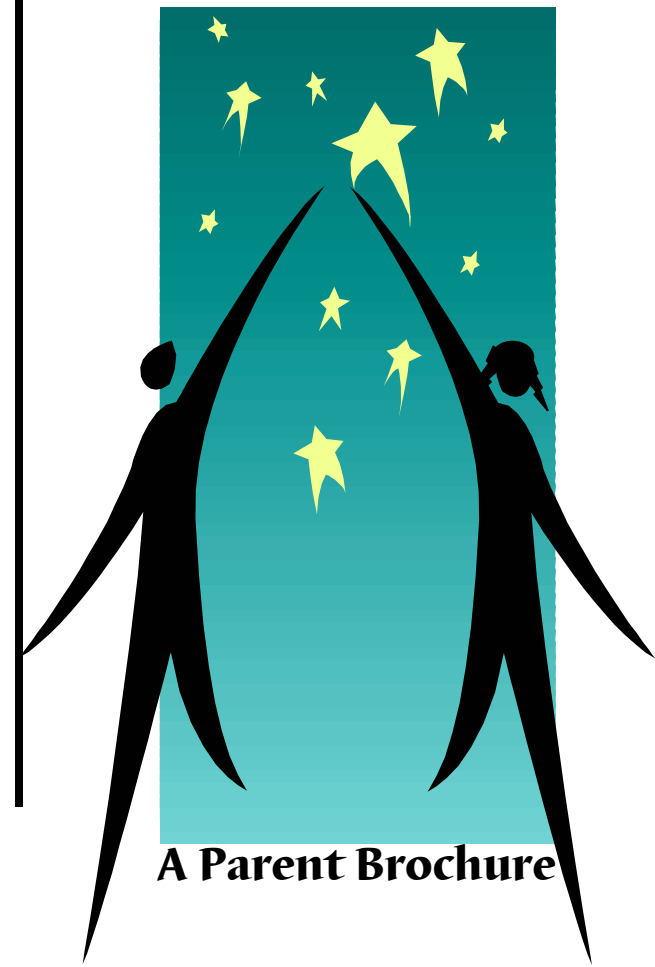
Phone: 207-624-6825

Email: mona.baker@maine.gov

Maine's **C**omprehensive **A**ssessment **S**ystem



For ALL Learners



A Parent Brochure